

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**STATEMENT BY MIKE LEAVITT, SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
REGARDING THE DEATH OF WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DR. LEE JONG-WOOK**

The World Health Organization and the global health community have suffered a tragic loss in the passing of WHO Director-General Dr. Lee Jong-Wook.

Dr. Lee devoted his life to public service and to improving the human condition. His visionary leadership embodied the spirit of global cooperation and strengthened the WHO and its role in the global health community.

Dr. Lee was an outstanding leader of the WHO and was a good friend to the United States and to me personally. His passing is a tremendous loss for all of us, and I extend my sincere condolences to his family and to the staff of the World Health Organization.

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Note: All HHS press releases, fact sheets and other press materials are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/news>.